(c) what steps Government propose to take to recover the funds and what penal action Government propose to take against the above individuals; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANAJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign exchange for film shootings

2062. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that film producers of the country are shooting their films in foreign countries and spending foreign exchange lavishly;

(b) if so whether Government are aware of the sources from where the foreign exchange comes to the producers and whether these sources are legal and genuine;

(c) whether Government are aware of the quantum of foreign exchange gone out of the country during the last two years for film shooting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) RBI releases foreign exchange for shooting of films abroad based on estimates together with proforma invoices received from overseas principals. On completion of shooting of the film the applicant has to render proper accounts of expenditure to RBI, supported by bills, invoices etc. The foreign exchange is released out of rupee funds of film producers.

(c) and (d) The nformation is being collected from the Regional Branches of RBI all-over Indian & would be placed on the Table of the House.

(e) Does not arise.

Opening of new branches of Banks

2063. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks are proposing to open their new branches in 2000-2001;